

## Panama Canal's Isthmian Rival.

In view of the fact that it is likely to prove a rival to the Panama canal, the Tehuantepec railroad in Mexico has received surprisingly little attention from the public of the United States. When it was opened with imposing ceremonies the other day, President Diaz starting the first freight train across the isthmus of Tehuantepec, a great many people heard of the enterprise for the first time. Perhaps it is its rivalry to the Panama canal as a system of transportation from ocean to ocean that gives the Mexican undertaking its chief interest on this side of the international boundary line. It is the opinion of some who have studied the question that when President Diaz pressed the button at Salina Cruz, thus putting the new road in operation, he started a competition that will never end. It is maintained, however, that neither enterprise will put the other out of business, as there is room for both, and each route from sea to sea has its own special advantages. The competition between the two will, it is thought, prove beneficial to the interests of trade. The Tehuantepec route is on an average about 1,250 miles shorter than the Panama voyage between New York and San Francisco or Honolulu or Japan.

For certain classes of freight this is a very important advantage for a saving of a few days' time in delivery and may make considerable difference in the value of a cargo. On other classes of freight the saving in time is not of so much account, and it is a great advantage in favor of the Panama canal that vessels taking this route can carry unbroken cargoes.

The Tehuantepec railway was really originated by American enterprise. More than fifty years ago there was talk of a canal under the supervision of the United States which should cross from ocean to ocean on about the line of the railway just opened. Later the Nicaragua and Panama



SIR WESTMAN PEARSON AND MAP SHOWING ROUTE OF THE ROAD.

routes came under discussion, the latter receiving the most favor and being adopted as the route of the waterway to be constructed by the United States. In 1879 the Mexican government gave a concession to a syndicate of business men, mainly residents of New York, for the construction of a railway across the Tehuantepec isthmus and operations on the project began, but the enterprise met with obstacles in the way of disagreements between the Mexican officials and the American promoters, and work was discontinued. The road has now been finished under a fifty year contract entered into between the Mexican government and the English contracting firm of S. Pearson & Son, Limited, the same firm which is building the Panama-Colombia Long Island tunnel under the East river at New York. The railway is to be operated jointly by this firm and the government. The line is about 150 miles long and crosses the Sierra Madre mountains at an elevation of about 800 feet above sea level.

The Tehuantepec railway is a much less expensive affair than the Panama canal is expected to prove, the former having cost to date about \$9,000,000. It connects the ports of Salina Cruz, on the Pacific, and Coahuacatlan, on the Gulf of Mexico, and a great deal of money is being expended in improving the harbors of these ports and creating terminal facilities. Sir Westman Pearson, head of the British firm which has constructed the railroad, is a member of the British parliament and a man of international reputation as an engineer and contractor. Between his duties in connection with the East river tunnel and his interests in Mexico he spends much of his time on this side of the Atlantic. Under him in the management of the Tehuantepec project in one or another of its phases are a large number of engineers and other skilled employees who are citizens of the United States, so that people from this side the line have had a good deal to do with the success of this big undertaking for increasing the prosperity and commercial prestige of the republic on one southern border.

When President Diaz crossed the isthmus in his special train and entered the port of Coahuacatlan, there was a notable demonstration. The train passed under triumphal arches, guns boomed, and fireworks were everywhere, and it is very proud of this new evidence of her enterprise and commercial progress.

## FREMSTAD AS SALOME.

The Operatic Star and Her Ideas as to Her Much Discussed Role.

Olive Fremstad, the operatic star who sang the part of Salome in the music drama of that name by Richard Strauss and Oscar Wilde, was at first repelled by the production. Since the piece was taken off at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, on account of the objections raised to it, comparison has been instituted between it and the play "John the Baptist," by Söderström, in which Julia Marlowe takes the role of the daughter of Herodias. Miss Marlowe says nothing would induce her to play Wilde's Salome. She



OLIVE FREMSTAD.

says, "Söderström's Salome is not the morbid, abnormal creature of Oscar Wilde's imagination." Miss Fremstad agrees to a certain extent with Miss Marlowe's characterization of the role in the Strauss-Wilde production. She says Wilde's Salome is a degenerate. Asked if she had any hesitation about assuming the role, she replied:

"Well, I'm rather a dappered sort of person, you know, but I must confess that I needed all my nerve for it. It was the hardest thing I ever tackled. When I first saw 'Salome' in Cologne, it nauseated me. I was absolutely sickened by it. It was horrible, disgusting, ugly! She believes that the music justifies the performance. On this point she says: 'The play is small, always harping on the sensational and the ugly. But the music—it soars on the wings of poetry. The music enlarges it for me. I like 'Salome' because it is a tremendous work. I like to get hold of something big. That bloody head sickened me at first. I could hardly bring myself to approach it at rehearsal. I sort of sidled up to it. I knew it was paper mache, of course, but I had to touch it with my fingers to satisfy myself. The fact that it is an exact copy of Van Rooy's head—a fact that is not generally known, I believe—made it all the more ghastly. I was told of this at the beginning and advised to get used to the ghastly thing. But even we hardened stage people shirk from some things."

## LOUIS W. HILL.

Son of James J. Hill, Who May Succeed to His Father's Shoes.

On account of the great railway interests controlled by James J. Hill there has been much interest in the question of what will succeed to his powers in the railway world when he dies or becomes too infirm to take the active part he has taken for so many years in the affairs of the financial and industrial community. It has been stated recently that he contemplated handing over his work as the director of a great railway system at an early



LOUIS W. HILL.

day to his son, Louis W. Hill, who has been trained for the duties likely to fall to him sooner or later. Louis Hill is a Yale graduate and has gone through all the departments of the complex railway business, mechanical, executive and accounting. He has been in a model school under the eye of a master. He became president not long ago of the Eastern Minnesota railroad, one of his father's requirements. Since that he has become first vice president of the Great Northern road.

## Fight Against Child Slavery.



A. J. BEVERIDGE.

ter to the Congressmen's league of New York regarding the evils incident to the employment of those of tender years in industrial establishments.

The bill introduced in the senate by Albert J. Beveridge of Indiana has been much discussed in the press, and the question of the wisdom of national legislation on the subject has been raised. Some claim that it is a problem whose solution can best be left entirely to the individual states. Senator Beveridge challenged attention by his statement that there are now nearly 2,000,000 breadwinners under fifteen years of age in the United States and that of these almost 700,000 are engaged in work other than agriculture. "Child labor on the farm is good," says the senator. "This bill does not strike at that. It strikes only at child slavery in factories, mines and sweatshops."

Senator Beveridge's plan of getting at the child labor evil is to prohibit by federal statute any interstate commerce in articles which are the product of such labor. Some who recognize the force of the senator's arguments against child labor maintain that the states should be left to put reforms on this subject in execution and that his bill would, if enacted into law, be a step in the direction of con-



Photo by Hubger, Minneapolis.

FRANK M. NYE.

Life, received a common school education, supplemented by a course at the academy at River Falls, Wis., and for a time taught school. He studied law and in 1875 was admitted to the bar in Hudson, Wis. In 1879 he was elected district attorney of Polk county, serving two terms. During the years 1884-85 he served in the lower house of the Wisconsin legislature. He made the speech nominating John C. Spooner when the latter was first elected to the United States senate. In 1896 Mr. Nye moved to Minneapolis, where he served a term as assistant county attorney, being promoted to head of the office by the election of 1892.

## MELBA'S TRIUMPHS.

Some of the Greatest Successes of the Operatic Star's Remarkable Career.

Mme. Nellie Melba, who is one of the foremost attractions at Oscar Hammerstein's new Manhattan Opera House in New York, is an Australian. On one of the evenings at which she appeared in the opera at the Manhattan some of her countrymen in the United States formed a party to hear her sing, and the Australian bush cry, "Goo-ee," which has often been heard at Covent Garden, London, when Melba sang, greeted for the first time the startled ears of the opera goers at the Manhattan.

The number 23 is generally regarded as a hoodoo number, but that depends. Mme. Melba did not consider it such when she was recalled that number of times on her first appearance in Philadelphia in the role of Mimi in Puccini's opera, "La Boheme," several seasons ago. The great contralto has enjoyed many triumphs, but that one stands out above all others. She and Kubelik, the violinist, are said to hold the record in this matter of encores.

Mme. Melba was successful almost from the very outset of her career. She has been a great favorite at the



MME. MELBA.

courts of Europe. Queen Victoria was one of the first royalties to join the ranks of her admirers, for she commanded Melba to visit Windsor when she had been singing in London but a short time. The emperor of Austria conferred upon her a coveted order. When she sang at Stockholm, King Oscar commanded her to come to the palace and conferred one of the greatest Swedish orders upon her. He was about to pin the order to her dress, but found he had not a pin, whereupon Melba produced one and offered it to him. But he at first refused it, saying, "I am afraid if I accept a pin from you it will break our friendship." Ultimately he did so and added, "If I accept the pin, I will kiss you to seal the compact." And he did so.

## FRANK M. NYE.

Congressman Elect Who is a Brother of the Late Bill Nye.

When Frank M. Nye, who has been elected to congress from Minnesota, takes his seat in the next house of representatives, his fellow members will expect him to crack a few jokes, as he is a brother of the noted humorist, the late Bill Nye. The congressman elect has made his reputation in a different field from that of his brother, however. He has won a reputation in the northwest as one of the ablest criminal lawyers in that part of the country. Mr. Nye was born in Shirley, Mo., in 1852, and when he was about two years of age his family moved to St. Croix county, Wis. He grew up on a farm amid the hardships of pioneer



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## UNCLE ELI'S FABLES.

Morals Always at Hand For Those In Need of Them.

### THE FARMER AND THE FOX.

How Uncle Reuben Threw Old Reynard Down and Showed His Ingratitude. Story of the Thief and Judge and the Grocer and the Sage.

(Copyright, 1927, by M. M. Cunningham.) One day as the farmer was grubbing out a stump in his field he was approached by a fox, who said:

"Uncle Reuben, I am no hand to butt in and mix myself up with other people's business, but I have come to give you a little pointer."

"What, that's kind of you, though I ain't in need of any gold bricks just at present."

"I can not that kind of fox. On the contrary, I am here to tell you that I overheard a conversation in the forest this morning and that the wench intends to rob your barnyard tonight. I am on friendly terms with him and



"I AM NOT THAT KIND OF A FOX."

shouldn't like him to know that I have given him away, but at the same time I don't want you to be a loser."

"That's good of you," said the farmer. "No, I won't say a word to anybody about it, but if the darned critter comes I'll give him a surprise party. Much obliged, and I'll try to do as much for you some time."

Wasn't a Bit Surprised.

The fox went his way with complacent look, and Uncle Reuben continued to grub and to think. When night came he did a little work about the coop and just as he was winding up the clock and making ready to go to bed a great racket out there demanded his presence. He went out with the lantern in one hand and an ax held in the other and wasn't a bit surprised to find Reynard in one of the traps he had set.

"How, now, but is this the gratitude you show me for the pointer I gave you this afternoon?" exclaimed the fox as he tugged at his captive leg.

Moral:—"Want, you see, it's this way," was the reply. "I got to thinking things over after you left and decided that it was just as easy to set a trap for a fox as for a weasel, and that's how you come to put your foot in it."

"Then release me, and we'll call it a mistake."

"Oh, I can't do that, you see. I've got to follow out my logic and decide that it is just as easy to knock a fox on the head as any other critter. Close your eyes and shut your teeth. It won't hurt but a mite."

A farmer who had lost several sheep at the hands of thieves notified the sheriff, and the latter individual set a watch and captured a man with the goods on him. When taken into court the evidence was so conclusive that speedy conviction resulted, and his honor was about to pass sentence when the prisoner rose up and said:

"Excuse me, judge, but I move to quash the proceedings."

"On what grounds, pray?"

"All the witnesses swore that I had a lamb on my shoulder when caught, while the warrant charges me with having stolen a sheep. I contend, your honor, that a sheep is not a lamb any more than a man is a boy."

The Prisoner's Sentence.

"Prisoner, the point is well taken. I was about to sentence you to state prison for one year for stealing a sheep. I will now amend the sentence to twelve months in the same institution for stealing a lamb."

"But it practically amounts to the same thing," protested the prisoner. "That is true. But how many of us stop to define the difference between lamb and sheep when eating nation chops? Remove the prisoner."

Moral:—"The only difference between tweedled and tweedledum is in the twiddle."

One day as the sage was sitting beneath a willow tree and meditating on man's inhumanity to man and how a cotton clothline shrinks up after an August rainstorm he was approached by a fat, red faced man wearing an apron, who greeted him with:

"O sage, I am green, the grocer."

"Yes, I have heard of green grocers several times before in my life," was the answer. "How is the green goods business coming on?"

"I know not, O wise man. This is my complaint: Some months since Brown, the hardware man, came to me and asked me to indorse his wintery day note."

"And you were as enough to do it, of course?"

"He made a feeling appeal to me, O sage."

"Feeling nonsense! There is no feeling in business. When was the note due?"

"Only yesterday."

"And Brown couldn't pay it, and you had to, and now you have come whining around for some of my wisdom. Go to. I have none to give."

"But thou art mistaken, O sage. Brown had the sugar to pay the note and took it up."

"He did?"

"Truly he did. And I came not here to beg for thy wisdom."

"Then what brought thee?"

"The work the wisdom racket myself. My partner is that when a man wants you to back his note don't chew straws over it. It's just a little business courtesy and profile of the warm glow. To in, old man."

Moral:—"The unexpected is always happening. Wisconsin furnishes a case where a father gave up all his property to his children and they didn't turn him outdoors next day."

M. QUAD.

Fair Play.

An attaché of the American embassy at London tells a story of a butler in the employ of a fine old English family whose long service had incited in him a personal proprietary interest in the sons and daughters of the house.

Once, on the occasion of a large dinner party, the conscientious butler observed that one of the members of the family, a young girl who had but recently entered society, was devoting an amount of attention to her agreeable neighbor on the right obviously in excess of that accorded to the less fascinating man on her left. This fact perturbed the butler to a degree that could no longer be borne in silence. So, under the pretense of passing the culprit a dish, the butler managed to whisper respectfully in her ear:

"A little more conversation to the left, miss."—Harper's Weekly.

His Weak Heart.

"He ran up two flights of stairs in his anxiety to propose to Miss Gilday and then couldn't speak because he was out of breath."

"What did she say?"

"She said, 'Point heart ne'er you fair lady,' and turned him down."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Job For Him.

Police Inspector—Haven't I often instructed you that you are not to allow the public to pick the flowers in this park?

Park Keeper—Yes. That is my wife, who used to be your cook. Perhaps you will try to make her stop.—Meg-gendorfer Blatter.

Her Language.

"I am told that your wife speaks Greek and Latin?"

"No," answered Mr. Meekton; "she understands them, but I regret to say that she insists on using my own native tongue, so that there is no excuse for my not paying attention."—Washington Star.

In Many Places.

Mrs. Naylor—I see you've got a new girl. Has she had much experience as a cook?

Mrs. Hiram—Often—Not much, but many, and when her week's up I propose to give her notice to hunt up another experience. —Philadelphia Press.

Flattering.

Magazine Editor—Why do you persist in coming in here? I tell you I don't buy fiction. The Lady Author—Oh, I don't wish to sell you any of my stories. I am writing a novel, entitled "The Ugliest Man on Earth," and I came in merely to obtain local color.

He Knew.

Teacher—Now, what little boy in this Sunday school can tell me what a pyramid is?

Tommy Tuff—Why, dat's de shape de pool balls is set up in for de break.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Floating a Scheme.

"They say that old Titowadd, after he has had a couple, is liable to loosen up and buy liberally."

"Is that so? Well, I'll invest 15 cents toward a pool to exploit the proposition."—Washington Herald.

Absentminded Professor.

"I wonder where I put my coat?"—Harper's Weekly.

Advice to the Pepper.

Do not pop on your knees when the question you pop, etc. If you do, all your life on your knees you will stop, etc.

Do you love me?—not this. For an answer may fall here. She may ask months to solve. All the doubts that assail her.

"Will you marry me?"—that's going straight to the laags. She'll reply "Yes" or "No". And so there you are "balk" says.

—G. H. W. in Boston Transcript.

Waterbury, Conn.—To have his epitaph reproduced on chocolate creams and old-fashioned moccasins (tuff) is the fate of the late Willis Upson, pioneer manufacturer and one of the founders of Waterbury, whose gravestone was found doing duty as a mixing slab in the candy factory of the Palace Sweets company, just sold.

"Don't forget the big candy stone," said the new proprietors to the movers. The movers did not, but some of them nearly fainted when they lifted the marble and read, "Willis Upson, passed to a higher life August 7, 1858, aged 68. He laid aside his earthly nature that he might be free from bondage."

The Upson family when notified summoned the police, who sought to force the candy men to surrender the stone, but found they could not. The old stone disappeared from the cemetery 25 years ago.

Silver Production Falls.

Washington.—The geological survey has announced that the total production of gold and silver in the United States for 1925 aggregated 40,367,342 fine ounces, with a valuation of \$122,102,676. Production of gold aggregated 4,265,712 fine ounces, value \$58,150,509, an increase of \$7,710 over the previous year. The total production of silver was 55,101,630 fine ounces, value \$34,221,976, decrease 1,581,260 ounces in actual output.

## SMITHS FILL LONDON

DIRECTORY FOR 1927 SHOWS 4,850 ANSWER TO NAME.

Jones Clan Is Bad Second in English Metropolis, But It Is Well Represented by Scriptural Cognomens.

London.—If you have a friend called Smith in London and wish to find him the natural course is to consult the London directory. But a glance at the 1927 edition of this colossal volume just issued shows that to look for any specified Smith is like looking for a bottle in the Atlantic ocean.

For the great Smith clan occupies no fewer than 11 closely printed pages of the grand total of 4,680 in the volume, exclusive of advertisements, a volume about as big as a small man can comfortably lift.

There are 110 William Smiths, 43 Thomases, but only 10 Sidney Smiths. The Jones clan comes a bad second with five pages.

Biblical names are well represented. There are 36 Jacobs, 23 Moses, 19 Eves, 18 Abrahams, 16 Adams, one Esau. There is no Lot, but several Lots, and two Lotzes.

Among "color" names there are, as usual, plenty of Blacks, Browns, Greens, etc., and as well one Blue and one Carmine.

In the "trades" list there is one professional bottle cleaner, one smoked salmon factor, two slate pencil makers and 35 receivers of wrecks at the various ports.

Another famous annual just issued is "Fry's Royal Guide to the London Charities," edited by John Lane. This is the forty-third edition.

It is designed to prevent indiscriminate charity and to show those who desire to give discriminately the thousand and one ways in which they can do so, wisely, profitably and tenderly, in this vast metropolis.

Particulars of the charities given show the address, the objects, the year's receipts last reported, the number of persons benefited last year, when, where, and how application for either information or for aid is to be made, and the chief officials.

From January 1, 1926, the amount bequeathed to charities during the year was over £2,000,000, exclusive of bequests under £200.

Large bequests for charitable purposes include £350,000 from the late Mrs. Lewis-Hill; £1,192,635, Mr. Edward Steinkopf; £500,000, Mr. George Herring; £1,050,000, Mr. Belt; £400,000, Miss Cardwell; £26,000, Dr. Thomas Corbett; besides many bequests ranging from £200 to £50,000.

BURIED CAN WINS BRIDE.

Hidden Twelve Years Ago, Is Found by Prospector.

Lead, S. D.—A few weeks ago Benjamin Hurst, a young prospector, unearthed in the Black Hills west of here a rusty tin can containing a note scribbled in pencil by Miss Julia Demming and buried by her 12 years ago.

As a result of the finding of the note Hurst and Miss Demming soon are to be married. The note, written and buried in a spirit of fun by Miss Demming, read:

"Whoever finds this note will please the writer of it by advising her that he has unearthed it. Her address is Portland, Ore. JULIA DEMMING."

Hurst promptly wrote the young woman that he had found the note. A week or two later he received an answer to the letter written at Seattle, the present home of Miss Demming.

The prospector wrote her again, she replied, and thus was begun a correspondence which grew into friendship, resulting finally in love and an engagement. Hurst is a young gold seeker who has spent the greater part of his life in the western mountains.

MAKE CANDY ON GRAVESTONE.

Marble Slab Serving as Mixing Board in a Connecticut Factory.

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